

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of inducing pro-inflammatory effects in synovial cells, comprising:

 exposing a plurality of synovial cells to a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2; and

 culturing the exposed cells and obtaining or/and assessing the result of inducing pro-inflammatory effect in the synovial cells.

Claim 2 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the peptide has pro-inflammatory effects on human synovial cells.

Claim 3 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the peptide induces expression of cell adhesion molecules in human synovial cells.

Claim 4 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the peptide has pro-inflammatory effects on synovial cells of a rheumatoid joint of a patient.

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Claims 5 -11 (canceled).